

# Foster Parents

## Changing Lives One Child at a Time

February 2006



### Remembering Foster Parent Richard Montgomery

The foster parent community lost one of its most inspirational members in January with the death of Richard Montgomery of Monroe, killed in a car crash.

Described as an “ordinary man” who did extraordinary things with his life, Montgomery and his wife Dixie fostered and adopted many children.

To read about Richard Montgomery, the thousand people who attended his memorial and the memorial fund set up in his name please use the links below:

[http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/01/04/100loc\\_a2victim001.cfm](http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/01/04/100loc_a2victim001.cfm)

[http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/01/09/100loc\\_a1funeral001.cfm](http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/01/09/100loc_a1funeral001.cfm)

### 2006 Annual Caregiver Conference

**Save the Date!** The 2006 Foster Parent and Caregiver Conference is scheduled for September 17, 18 and 19 in Spokane. If you would like to participate in the planning committee and/or subcommittees please contact Barb Bofinger at (360) 902-7986 or [boba300@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:boba300@dshs.wa.gov). The Subcommittees are: Volunteer Coordination, Workshops, Program/Keynote Speaker, Entertainment, Fund Raising, Regional Meetings, Food, Vendors, Registration, and Brochures and Bags. We need your help in making this conference a success.

### Foster Care Month

May is National Foster Care Month. Initial planning is underway for events to recognize the important role you as foster parents and caregivers play in the life of the child in your care. More details to come. If you would like to be involved in planning for Foster Care Month, please contact Barb Bofinger at (360) 902-7986 or [boba300@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:boba300@dshs.wa.gov).

### Governor's Scholarship for Foster Youth

High school seniors who are in foster or kinship care have until March 1 to send in their application for the Governor's Scholarship for Foster Youth. The plan, managed by the Washington Education Foundation, is aimed at Washington youth in state or federally recognized foster, group, or kinship care who plan to enroll in and complete college programs of study in the state of Washington. All applicants must be current high school seniors who plan to graduate during the 2004-05 academic year.

For further information and an on-line application, click [www.waedfoundation.org](http://www.waedfoundation.org) or call the foundation at (425) 416-2028 or the Governor's Scholarship program at 1-877-655-4097.

### Washington State Education and Training Voucher (ETV)

Young adults currently in foster care or who have emancipated from the Washington state foster care system (or who were in foster care and adopted after the age of 16) and are enrolled in or plan to enroll in an accredited post-secondary education or training program anywhere in the United States can apply for an ETV. The ETV is a grant funded by the federal government that can provide up to \$5000 per year towards a youths post secondary education or training. There is no deadline for the ETV applications, and students must reapply each year. To apply for ETV for the 05-06 school year, use the 05-06 ETV application instead of the 05-07 Common Application. With questions please contact [ilskids@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:ilskids@dshs.wa.gov). Foster parents can help the young adult to apply for the ETV program by supporting and encouraging them to complete and submit the Application and the supporting documents. The completed ETV application should be sent to the youth's independent living/transitional living representative (if they have one) or they can call (360) 902-8243 for information on where to send the application.

### Question and Answer Column

We often get questions from individuals that may be important to all caregivers. If you have a question, and think the answer would be information that would benefit other caregivers please contact Barb Bofinger at (360) 902-7986 or [boba300@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:boba300@dshs.wa.gov) and we can post it in the newsletter.

**Question:** For major surgeries, how much would foster parents have to pay if Medicaid doesn't pay?

**Answer:** THIS SHOULD NEVER HAPPEN! Foster parents are NEVER financially responsible for medical care associated with children placed by DSHS in their home. If providers are asking you to pick up the difference, notify your social worker immediately! This is against the law and providers agree to the reimbursement rates that Health & Recovery Services Administration, previously known as the Medical Assistance Administration, pays when they become a state Health & Recovery Services provider.

## Confidentiality of Foster Parent Information

Children's Administration does not release your name or address to the Foster Parent Association of Washington State (FPWS), local foster parent associations, YMCA of Greater Seattle or to Families for Kids (FFK). These agencies can provide support, information and referral, and key information to assist you in providing for the children in your care. We encourage you to contact each of these agencies and provide them with your information so that they can add you to their email and mailing list and you can then receive important information. To contact FPAWS, FFK, Resource Family Network (Region 5) or the YMCA of Greater Seattle see the information listed below for their phone numbers and website addresses.

## Foster Parent Association of Washington State

**The Foster Parent Association of Washington State (FPAWS) is seeking new members.** FPAWS has been in existence for more than two decades and provides information and advocacy on behalf of foster parents. The FPAWS website [www.fpaws.org](http://www.fpaws.org) includes information useful to foster parents, including trainings, training locations and times, local foster parent associations, and a support line for foster parents 1-800-391-CARE (2273).

## Families For Kids

**Families for Kids (FFK)** has a state contract to provide support services for foster parents in all counties (not including Pierce and Kitsap counties). You can contact them at 1-888-794-1794 or [www.familiesforkids.org](http://www.familiesforkids.org). To help you in the work you do, you are encouraged to join a hub, buddy system or support group run by Families for Kids.

**YMCA of Greater Seattle:** The YMCA of Greater Seattle is the statewide recruitment contractor for all counties (not including Pierce and Kitsap counties). Their contact information is 1-800-760-5340 or [whyfoster@seattleymca.org](mailto:whyfoster@seattleymca.org)

**Foster Care Resource Network:** The Foster Care Resource Network is the recruitment and retention contractor for Pierce and Kitsap counties. You can contact them at 1-253-677-8122.

**Foster Parent Training:** All licensed family foster homes (including private agency, Children's Administration and licensed relative homes) are required to complete 36 hours of ongoing training during each three year licensing period. There are great trainings available to help you in the work you do. To find out what trainings are available go to the foster parent website at <http://www1.dsha.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/training.asp>.

## Important Numbers

**Important numbers to know when you take care of children in foster care or are thinking about doing so:**

Statewide information about becoming a foster or adoptive parent: *Why Foster* statewide telephone line at 1-800-760-5340 or [whyfoster@seattleymca.org](mailto:whyfoster@seattleymca.org) Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or leave a message and receive a return call within 24 hours.

Statewide information about receiving foster parent support: *Families for Kids*: 1-888-794-1784 or [www.familiesforkids.org](http://www.familiesforkids.org) Monday-Friday, 9:00 – 5:00 p.m. or leave a message. Receive a return call by the next business day.

Kitsap and Pierce County information about becoming a foster parent or to receive foster parent support: *Foster Care Resource Network*, 1-253-677-8122. Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or leave a message and receive a return call by the next business day.

General foster parent information for the state of Washington/FPAWS: *Foster Parent Association of Washington State*, 1-800-391-CARE (2273) or [www.fpaws.org](http://www.fpaws.org) Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or leave a message and receive a return call by the next business day. Seeking new members and supporting foster parents in many ways, including referrals to local associations.

Support for foster parents under investigation for allegations of abuse or neglect: *Foster Parent Investigation Retention Support Team (FIRST)* 1-253-219-6782, Monday – Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., or leave a message and receive a return call within 24 hours.

CA Foster Parent and Caregiver Crisis Line and general support on licensing and case management questions not abuse or neglect: *Caregiver Support/Crisis Line*: 1-800-301-1868. Weeknights from 4:30 p.m. – 8:00 a.m./weekends and holidays, 24 hours per day.

*Family Help Line*: 1-800-932-HOPE or [www.parenttrust.org](http://www.parenttrust.org). The Family Help Line is a free, statewide training and referral line for the families of Washington State. Last year, the Family Help Line received over 5,000 calls and requests for information. Calls can last up to 90 minutes and parents can call as often as needed.

Join the 400 people who have subscribed to the List Serve:(r) <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=fosterparents&&A=1>

For information about Foster Parenting: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/>

For information about Foster Parent Training: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/training.asp>